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DOWNSVILLE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW WATER WELL \$281,000 Federal Grant Funds Project

DOWNSVILLE, LA, May 3, 2004 – A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday in downtown Downsville for a new community water well. Congressman Rodney Alexander joined Mayor Reggie Skains to celebrate the occasion.

“I am excited about this new well and pleased that Congressman Alexander was able to join us today,” said Mayor Skains. “Thanks to a federal grant, Downsville residents will soon enjoy improved water service.”

The new water well will provide 72 residents access to clean, safe drinking water. The new well was funded by a \$281,000 grant from USDA Rural Development.

“Grant funds from USDA Rural Development make water system improvements affordable for rural communities,” said Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana. “Clean, safe drinking water is something a lot of us take for granted—but rural communities don’t always have financial resources available to maintain and develop their water systems.”

Through USDA Rural Development’s water and environmental programs, rural communities obtain the technical assistance and financing necessary to develop drinking water systems. During 2003, USDA Rural Development invested almost \$34 million in water and environmental projects in Louisiana: \$20.5 million in loans and \$13.3 million in grants.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>.

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